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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/790,479

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Darrell Reginald May

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EXAMINER

RAMPURIA, SHARAD K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2617

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/04/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/790,479

Applicant(s)

MAY ET AL.

Examiner

Sharad Rampuria

Art Unit

2617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-14 and 16-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-14 and 16-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

I. The Art Unit location of this application in the USPTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Art Unit 2617.

II. The current office-action is in response to the remarks filed on 12/05/2006.

Accordingly, Claims 8, 15 are cancelled and Claims 1-7, 9-14 and 16-23 are imminent for further assessment as follows:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

III. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-14 and 16-23 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Koskan** [US 6181956] in view of **Kuboyama** et al. [US 20040186728].

As per claims 1, 16, **Koskan** teaches:

A mobile wireless cellular communications device (Abstract, Col.2; 7-17) comprising:

A wireless cellular transceiver (120; Fig.2, Col.2; 18-38) and a controller (240; Fig.2, Col.2; 29-37, Col.2; 39-52) for cooperating therewith for receiving text messages from a wireless communications network; (Col.2; 39-52) and

When in the audio message mode, outputting at least one audio message comprising speech generated from at least one of the received text messages via said headset output. (Col.2; 39-63, Col.2; 64-Col.3; 15, Col.3; 32-38).

Koskan doesn't teach specifically, a headset output connected to said controller; said controller for switching between a normal message mode and a hands-free audio message mode based upon a connection between said headset output and a headset. However, **Kuboyama** teaches in an analogous art, that a headset (103; Fig.1, Paragraph 00052) output connected to said controller; said controller for switching between a normal message mode and a hands-free audio message mode based upon a connection between said headset output and a headset. (e.g. a switching control step of making output destination switching control that outputs the speech information corresponding to the text information to the audio output device when it is determined in the determination step that the audio output device is connected, and outputs the text information to the display means when it is determined in the determination step that the audio output device is not connected; Paragraph 0024-0025, 0052, 0074) Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify **Koskan**

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including a headset output connected to said controller; said controller for switching between a normal message mode and a hands-free audio message mode based upon a connection between said headset output and a headset in order to appropriately switching for providing information to the user in correspondence with an information acquisition environment of that user.

As per claims 2, 10, 17, 21, **Koskan** teaches:

The mobile wireless communications device of claims 1, 9, 16, 20, wherein said headset output comprises a wireless headset output for establishing a wireless connection with the headset. (120; Fig.1, Col.1; 62-66)

As per claims 4, 11, 18, 22, **Koskan** teaches:

The mobile wireless communications device of claims 1, 9, 16, 20, further comprising a user interface device connected to said controller, and wherein said controller switches to the audio message mode based upon an audio message mode command provided by a user via said user interface device. (250; Fig.2, Col.2; 29-37, Col.2; 64-Col.3; 15)

As per claim 5, **Koskan** teaches:

The mobile wireless communications device of claim 4 wherein said user interface device comprises a keypad connected to said controller. (255; Fig.2, Col.2; 29-37, Col.2; 64-Col.3; 15)

As per claims 6, 12, 19, 23, **Koskan** teaches:

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The mobile wireless communications device of claims 1, 9, 16, 20, further comprising a text-to-speech module for cooperating with said controller to convert the at least one text message to the at least one audio message. (Col.3; 5-9, 32-38)

As per claims 7, 14, **Koskan** teaches:

The mobile wireless communications device of claims 1, 9, further comprising a display connected to said controller for displaying the text messages. (252; Fig.2, Col.2; 29-37, Col.3; 28-31)

Claim 9 is the system claim corresponding to device claim 1 respectively, and rejected under the same rational set forth in connection with the rejection of claim 1 respectively, above.

As per claim 13, **Koskan** teaches:

The communications system of claim 9 wherein said controller is also for generating a conversion request for the at least one text message and cooperating with the wireless transceiver to forward the conversion request to said wireless communications network; and wherein said wireless communications network receives the conversion request and further comprises a text-to-speech module for converting the at least one text message to the at least one audio message, and wherein said wireless communications network sends the at least one audio message to said at least one wireless communications device. (240; Fig.2, Col.2; 64- Col.3; 15, Col.3; 32-38)

Claim 20 is the computer readable medium claim corresponding to device claim 1 respectively, and rejected under the same rationale set forth in connection with the rejection of claim 1 respectively, above.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Koskan & Kuboyama** further in view of Zahavi et al. [US 6577859].

As per claim 3, the above combination teaches all the particulars of the claim except wherein said headset output comprises a headset jack for a wired headset. However, Zahavi teaches in an analogous art, that the mobile wireless communications device of claim 1 wherein said headset output comprises a headset jack for a wired headset. [24; Fig.2, Col.7; 46-50] Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the above combination including wherein said headset output comprises a headset jack for a wired headset in order to provide a system and method which allows a cellular phone user to communicate with a caller when the user is unable to speak aloud.

Response to Amendments & Arguments

IV. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7, 9-14 and 16-23 have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

V. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sharad Rampuria whose telephone number is (571) 272-7870. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F. (8:30-5 EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, George Eng can be reached on (571) 272-7495. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or EBC@uspto.gov.

/Sharad Rampuria/
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2617